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# U. S. Has Pursued Unwise Policy In Mid-East, Fulbright Charges

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**FULLMAN** — The United States policy toward the Middle East for the last few years has not been wise, Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark) said at Washington State College Thursday.

"We have been reluctant to assume responsibility in the area," he told a packed Todd Hall audience. "We've been improvising, hoping that events would somehow turn out all right."

The talk was open to the public as well as students and college personnel, and late arrivals had to sit in the aisles.

The Senator will speak at the University of Idaho Friday morning. He will be taken on an aerial tour of Northwest damsites Friday afternoon and visit at Lewiston over Friday night.

## Sees Three Shortcomings

Fulbright listed three fields in which he said American foreign policy has shortcomings. He said our foreign aid policy is shortsighted, our trade policy should be reviewed and our diplomacy is too self-righteous.

"One of my criticisms of our present foreign policy leader (Secretary Dulles) is his self-righteousness," he said.

Granting that Britain and France acted foolishly when they invaded Egypt, he said America played a part, too, in bringing about the present situation. "By criticizing colonialism, and by telling our allies they couldn't hold the Middle East forever anyhow, and they might as well get out, we contributed to their leaving."

But when their dominance in the Mid-East faded, the Senator pointed out, something of a vacuum was left, and we "didn't take up the responsibility ourselves."

He granted he didn't know what would happen next in the Middle East, particularly in Jordan. "To make it simple, I don't know what's happening in Jordan this morning," he said. "I doubt if the head of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) does either, unless he has an open wire to Amman."

Urging a long-range approach to foreign aid, he said we have tended too much to do no planning or it, as "we always thought we'd get rid of it next year."

As to trade, he said, "I consider myself what is known as a low-thrill man," and cautioned his hearers that "We cannot forever sell more than we buy."

Replacing that American interest in the Middle East with more than just profits for oil companies, Fulbright said the region, a bridge linking Europe, Asia and Africa, is one of the world's most strategic areas, and that the Western concept of political and economic organization and the concept of the Communists are competing for ascendancy there.

"If the Russian concept should win there," he said, "the balance of power would drastically shift in the Communists' favor."

If this happened, he said, Russia might feel so powerful that she would decide to attack the West. He doubted she would choose this course, but predicted she instead would increase infiltration and subversion in the area until she had effective control.

Then, he speculated further, when she controlled in effect the Mid-East's oil — which is absolutely vital to the economy of the West she could bring Europe to terror, and extend her dominance until in 30 or 50 years the United States would be virtually isolated.

The Senator also saw one other possibility. America, he said, could see this turn of events coming and herself launch a war to head it off. But he said he didn't consider this course likely.

In a brief recapitulation of U. S. foreign policy in years gone by, he traced the growth of America's responsibility in the world. He asserted that foreign policy cannot be considered as a thing apart from domestic policies, as and inevitably affects the other.

## 1937 Complacent Time

"Just 30 years ago," he said, "it was a complacent world we lived in. The Western nations, dedicated to democratic ideals, were in undisputed ascendancy." Even the non-democratic nations, he said, "at least paid lip service to democracy."

Then, he pointed out, came two world wars — both within the Western group of nations.

"And now," he said, "we are the one power protecting the free world from communism."

Fulbright said there are two capitalist approaches to foreign policy. One, he said, is that of the isolationists, who don't want any foreign relations. The other is what he said "we call the 'One-Worlders' — those who want one government, now, for the whole world. These are both forms of escapism from immediate problems."

On other aspects of America's foreign policy, Fulbright said:

**China** — The Chinese Nationalist Government was unfairly criticized in connection with it. "A mistake was made," he granted, in following testimony taking Canada's Ambassador Herbert Norman with communism. But he said the release was made with the approval of the State Department.

**Red China** — Our policy is too rigid toward China, he said. Commemorating that "It's rather silly to officially ignore the existence of 600-million people," he said we should consider recognition of Mao Tse-tung's regime. It has been our historic policy to recognize de facto regimes, he said, whether we like them or not, and he added that the Communists are indisputably in control of the Chinese mainland.

He said, however, we should be able to get something out of negotiations with the Mao government — for example, he said, we should explore the possibility of having Formosa recognized by the Communists as an independent nation. He granted, however, that Nationalist China's Chiang Kai-shek would no doubt take a dim view of this solution.

**India** — This nation is making progress toward a higher living standard, over great difficulties. "But I'm not sure that India is yet over the hump in democracy," he said.

He expressed "great admiration" for Jawaharlal Nehru in his efforts to give India a better living standard.

And India's "nationality" reminded him, he said, of our own early days.

One great danger, he said, is that India may lapse into the old system of provincial states after Nehru is gone — much as Indonesia now appears to be in the process of doing.

In answer to the single question asked after his talk, Fulbright said he thinks it is now too late to again change our policy on helping Egypt build her Aswan Dam. He said "It may have been a mistake to offer help in the first place. Or the mistake may have been in withdrawing the offer, especially in such an offensive way. But either the offer or the withdrawal was a mistake."

He said a possible new approach would be to treat the Nile River as an entity and explore the possibilities of helping provide a system of dams on the river and its branches to benefit Ethiopia and Sudan as well as Egypt.

Senator Fulbright was briefly in-

troduced by Dr. C. Clement French, WSC president, who praised his sponsorship of Fulbright scholarships, providing opportunities for Americans to study abroad.

"You hear students say, 'I'm going abroad to a Fulbright,'" he commented, adding that when a man's name becomes a common noun among students the world of education is indebted to him. He pointed out that Fulbright was an educator and, like himself, a college president before he engaged in politics.

Referring to the introduction, the Senator said he believed better education is the most important need in the United States. "I will believe in better education," he said, "till I'm 90 years old. I've spent in the Senate."

Saying he was blessed with the results of Washington's senatorial and gubernatorial elections last November, Fulbright added, "This shows great discrimination. It shows that your education is worth."